

the practice with respect to nationally owned and operated radio services such as the BBC, and any others there may be? Is the censorship feature carried out and dealt with by the same body as handles the building of programs and the broadcasting of them?

The WITNESS: Yes, it is an integral function of the main operation.

Mr. HAMILTON: Are there others besides the BBC to which that applies?

The WITNESS: The Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the South African—it is most severe in South Africa.

Mr. HAMILTON: Then I do not know if you agree in this, Major Murray; would it be a handicap to the building of a stronger and better national broadcasting service and the popularizing of it if the censorship function was taken away from it and put in other hands? Would it be better for it, or worse for it from the point of view of the feature which we were discussing a few minutes ago, the inspiration of interest in farm life? The idea I have in mind is popularizing the CBC as a national institution for giving radio service in the sense of promoting education, Canadian public thought, and so forth, to the listeners of the Dominion of Canada.

The WITNESS: Well, it is a problem to which I would like to give a little more consideration than is possible at the moment. But I might make this observation that while the proposal sounds attractive there might be some question about its feasibility in practice, for this reason; you would be setting up new machinery and I think you are bound to have a certain degree of conflict. The new censoring authority would find itself faced with the fact that part of its duties would be to apply its restrictions to the CBC as well, wouldn't it?

Mr. HAMILTON: Yes, that is it.

The WITNESS: I mean, the censorship authority.

Mr. HAMILTON: This committee perhaps would not be prepared to go that far, but the fact is that these limitations have been to a certain extent the cause of the difficulties you have met so far.

The WITNESS: If it is assumed that the CBC policy as described, is the right policy, then its chief characteristic is absence of censorship; I mean there is a minimum of regulation, and there is no censorship apart from the law.

Mr. HAMILTON: May I illustrate it this way. It is pretty hard to decide the gradations between what is, we will say, a religious broadcast and a political broadcast. Sometimes it has been a contentious issue. Then, again, take the case of advertising, a personal broadcast, such a broadcast sometimes becomes advertising and it is difficult to say whether it is advertising or whether it is not. It requires a pretty fine discrimination to decide some of these points, and whoever is required to apply the rule is going to face unpopularity.

The WITNESS: Undoubtedly I would be the last one to resist any suggestion the purpose of which would be to increase our popularity. I think this raises a question of principle and a question of administration which I would be very glad to think about and let Colonel Hamilton have a considered view.

Mr. HAMILTON: I am suggesting some thoughts that occurred to me. I have no definite idea on it myself one way or the other. I am anxious and ready to build popularity for the CBC.

The WITNESS: I very much appreciate your good will.

Mr. BOUCHARD: In any case of dissension could the matter not be referred to the minister or to the Department of Justice for a ruling?

The WITNESS: It would be difficult to allot censorship outside the confines of the body which has the direct sense of audience and the feel of the business. But I think it is worth while to explore all these suggestions, because certainly the thesis is a sound one that unpopularity is concentrated in those two directions.